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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Manuel Vega, et. al

Art Unit : 1631

Serial No. : 10/022,249

Examiner : Channing S. Mahatan

Filed : December 17, 2001

Customer No.: 20985

Conf No. : 7196

Title : HIGH THROUGHPUT DIRECTED EVOLUTION BY RATIONAL
MUTAGENESIS

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.114**

Dear Sir:

In connection with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of the above-captioned application, and responsive to the Office Action, mailed April 17, 2006, Applicant requests consideration and entry of the following amendment and remarks

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of the claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Stephanie Seidman